

COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Military Information from Dessau-Rosslau

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EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 5 February 1953REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. From 3 to 13 January 1953, the barracks installation in Rosslau was occupied to capacity by about 5,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, motor transport, tank and signal insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets. Instruction on 3 x 82-mm mortars, 3 x 120-mm mortars and 3 x 76.2-mm field guns was observed daily between 9 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. About 80 troops daily participated in the training. Firing with carbines was observed at the firing range north of the installation.

At about 11 a.m. on 12 January, an engineer unit of about 120 men armed with rifles and including some armed with machine guns and carrying light field pack returned to the installation, apparently from a march practice.

2. From 15 December 1952 to 13 January 1953, the barracks installation in Rosslau was occupied to capacity. Source made the following observations in the sections mentioned:

Section A, in the southwest section of the installation, was occupied by 700 to 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. The majority of the troops were recruits.

Section B, adjoining Section A to the northwest, was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Formation drill and rifle firing was observed.

Section C, in the northeast section of the installation, was occupied by 700 to 800 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. The sheds to the north were occupied by tanks. On 5 January, four JS-3 tanks

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were seen at firing practice with subcaliber tubes over a distance of 100 meters at the tank firing range. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Section D, north of Section A, was occupied by 700 to 800 troops, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with tank insignia. Troops observed received basic training without arms. At about 11 a.m. on 24 December, seven T-34/85 tanks left the installation. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Section E, south of Section C, was occupied by about 1,200 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets, mostly with engineer insignia. Infantry training at squad level was observed during the period of observation. [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. According to this information, the bulk of the 7th Gds Tank Div can be carried in the barracks installation until mid-January 1953, as previously. The observations [REDACTED] tend to indicate that the four tank regiments of the division are stationed at the installation. Reports of late November, however, indicated that Camp Gross Kuehnau was occupied by at least one tank regiment of the division at that time. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] As no confirmation [REDACTED] is available, the observation is believed to be incorrect. The 36th Pan Bridge Regt of the GOFG which, prior to the spring of 1951, was stationed in Rossau, in the fall of 1951, after completion of the summer training, definitely moved to the Seeckt Kaserne in Magdeburg, where it still has its permanent quarters. Since then, no large engineer unit could be confirmed in the barracks installation in Rossau, except for a temporary occupation during the summer months in connection with the maneuvers on the Elbe River on either side of Dessau.

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